



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 2
290 BROADWAY
NEW YORK, NY 10007-1866



January 16, 2003

**Re: Public Information Session for the Cornell-Dubilier
Electronics Superfund Site**

Dear Resident:

The purpose of this letter is to inform you that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will be holding a public information session on Thursday, January 30, 2003 at the South Plainfield Borough Hall located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey.

The information session will provide you an opportunity to discuss with EPA representatives the results of the sampling activities conducted at the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics site and for you to provide input into the clean up options that are being evaluated for the site. Considering the redevelopment proposal adopted by the Borough of South Plainfield for the industrial park, it is EPA's intention to understand and gather as much information as possible from the community in preparation of the Feasibility Study (FS) for the industrial park.

The public information session will be held between 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m. Please feel free to meet with us anytime between 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m. Beginning at 7 p.m., EPA will make a brief presentation to those in attendance. Furthermore, we intend to hold additional information sessions during the winter and spring of 2003 as the FS for the on-site soils and buildings at the industrial park is being developed. EPA will inform you of the date, time, and location for these additional sessions as this information becomes available.

10.00 204

A copy of the fact sheet for the site is enclosed. Please feel free to call me at 212-637-4395 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Mannino", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Peter Mannino, Remedial Project Manager
Central New Jersey Remediation Section

Enclosure

Superfund Update



Cornell-Dubilier Electronics Site

South Plainfield, New Jersey

EPA
Region 2

January 2003

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is issuing this update to inform the community and local officials of the results of recent investigations and upcoming actions related to the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics site in South Plainfield, New Jersey.

Background

The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics site is located in a mixed industrial, commercial and residential area of South Plainfield, New Jersey. The site includes the Hamilton Industrial Park and contaminated portions of the Bound Brook downstream of the industrial park. In addition, some neighboring residential and commercial properties have been affected by the site.

Cornell-Dubilier Electronics operated at what is now the Hamilton Industrial Park from 1936 to 1962, manufacturing electronic components including capacitors. It is alleged that during its operations, Cornell-Dubilier Electronics released polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contaminated materials and other hazardous substances to the environment. PCBs have been detected in soils and in building interiors at the industrial park, at adjacent residential and commercial properties and in the surface water and sediment of the Bound Brook.

The Cornell-Dubilier Electronics site was added to the final federal Superfund National Priorities List of hazardous waste sites in July 1998.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

January 30, 2003: Public Information Session

EPA will hold a public information session to discuss the results of the sampling activities at the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics site and to get your input into the cleanup options that are being evaluated for the Hamilton Industrial Park (OU2).

The meeting will be held at the South Plainfield Borough Hall, located at 2480 Plainfield Avenue, South Plainfield, New Jersey between 1:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

WINTER 2003: EPA will send you additional information on the public comment period for EPA's Proposed Plan to address residential, commercial, and municipal properties in the vicinity of the CDE facility (OU1).

Previous Actions

EPA ordered the owners of the Hamilton Industrial Park to take actions to limit the movement of contaminants from the industrial park. These actions were completed in September 1997 and included paving driveways and parking areas in the industrial park, installing a security fence and implementing drainage controls.

In 1997, EPA began collecting surface soil and interior dust samples from residential properties near the CDE facility. The results of the sampling revealed PCBs in soil and interior dust that

posed a potential health concern for residents of several of the properties tested. These investigations led to removal actions at 13 residential properties, conducted from 1998 to 2000. Properties with PCBs in soil and interior dust that posed a potential health threat to residents were cleaned and contaminated soil was removed.

In 1999, EPA conducted a preliminary investigation of the Bound Brook to evaluate the potential impacts of contamination on human health and the environment. Elevated levels of PCBs were found in fish and sediments of the Bound Brook. As a result of these investigations, NJDEP issued a fish consumption advisory for the Bound Brook and its tributaries, including New Market Pond and Spring Lake.

In April 2000, EPA began a comprehensive study of the site, called a Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), to help determine the nature and extent of contamination and to develop a remedy to mitigate threats to human health and the environment. The RI/FS included sampling of the on-site soils, building interiors, groundwater, and soil from the nearby residential, commercial and municipal properties.

To expedite the cleanup of the CDE site, EPA has divided the site into remedial action phases or operable units (OUs). Operable Unit 1 (OU1) addresses residential, commercial, and municipal properties in the vicinity of the CDE facility. The second operable unit (OU2) will address the remediation of source materials, including contaminated facility soils and buildings. The third and final operable unit (OU3) will address the contaminated groundwater and contaminated sediments at the Bound Brook.

Current Actions

EPA has completed the RI/FS for OU1. This winter, EPA intends to release a Proposed Plan that explains EPA's preferred alternative to address contamination at residential, commercial, and municipal properties in the vicinity of the CDE facility (OU1). The Proposed Plan will be subject to a 30-day public

comment period. Public comments will be considered before EPA decides on which cleanup alternative to employ in the remediation of these properties.

The RI for OU2 has also been completed and EPA is in the process of developing the Feasibility Study (FS) for this operable unit. The purpose of the FS is to evaluate a broad range of possible technologies and alternatives that could be used to clean up the contaminated soils and buildings. In order to obtain community input and gather as much information as possible in preparation of the development of the remedial alternatives and the FS for the industrial park, EPA is holding a series of public information sessions in South Plainfield.

EPA anticipates to release a Proposed Plan that addresses EPA's preferred alternative to address the contaminated on-site soils and buildings in the summer of 2003.

Future Actions

EPA's remedial investigations of the ground water and Bound Brook contamination are ongoing. Future Proposed Plans will address these other contamination problems caused by the site.

For More Information

For information about the health effects from exposure to PCBs or other environmental contaminants, contact the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) at (732) 906-6931.

If you have any questions about the Cornell-Dubilier Electronics site, please contact Pat Seppi, EPA's community relations coordinator at (212) 637-3679 or Peter Mannino, EPA's project manager at (212) 637-4395. For more information about the Superfund process, feel free to access our web site at www.epa.gov/region02/superfund.